LAW SECRETARIAT

Appoints a Committee to enquire and suggest amendment to the Act relating to Women's Rights in Hindu Law.

READ—

ORDER No. P. 298-311— Cts. 81-44-4, DATED BANGALORE, THE 11TH JULY 1945.

The question of improving the position assigned to women under the Hindu Law of Inheritance was the subject of examination by a Committee appointed in 1929. As a result of the recommendations made by this Committee, the Hindu Law Women's Rights Act, 1933, was passed. This Act has been in force for over twelve years and there is a growing demand for its revision. In December 1944, a resolution was passed by the Legislative Council urging upon the Government the need for the appointment of a Committee to examine, revise and amend the Hindu Law Women's Rights Act, 1933. The High Court, which was consulted in the matter, is of opinion that the appointment of such a Committee is urgently called for to revise the Act in the light of the decisions given by the High Court as well as to bring the law in consonance with the spirit of modern times.

Government agree that there is need for the appointment of such a Committee and they are accordingly pleased to appoint a Committee consisting of—

Mr. Justice S. Venkataranga Iyengar, B.A., LL.M.
Rajadharmapravina Diwan Bahadur Mr. P. Mahadevayya, B.A., B.L. (Retired Chief Justice), M. L. C.
Rajadharmaprasakta Mr. C. Subramanya Aiyar, B.A., B.L. (Retired Judge, High Court of Mysore).
Mr. M. P. Somasekhara Rau, B.A, LL.B., Advocate, Bangalore.
Mr. N. Balakrishnaiya, B.A., LL.B., Advocate, Bangalore.
Mr. R. Venkataramaiah, M.A., LL.B., District Judge.
Mr. H. Lingappa, B.A., LL.B., Advocate, Shimoga.
Mr. D. S. Mallappa, M.L.C., Merchant, Tiptur.
Mrs. Yesodhara Dasappa.
Mr. Hombe Gowda, B.Sc., LL.B., Public Prosecutor, Mandya.

Mr. Justice S. Venkataranga Iyengar will be the Chairman, Mr. G. S. Venkataramana Iyer, B.Sc., M.L., Assistant Secretary to Government, Legislation Branch, will work as Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee is requested to suggest suitable amendments to the various provisions of the Hindu Law Women's Rights Act, 1933, so as to resolve the difficulties felt in the interpretation of the existing provisions of the Act and to be in consonance with the spirit of modern times.

The Committee may call for information and opinions from Government Officers as well as from members of the Public and Public Bodies and to interview and examine witnesses.

All Officers of Government are requested to furnish the Committee with any information at their disposal on requisition from the Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee will meet at Bangalore and the Chairman and five members will constitute a quorum.

The Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, is requested to comply with all the requisitions from the Committee for printing and stationery.

C. NARAYANASWAMY NAIDU, *Law Secy.*

ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAT

Reviews the Administration Report of the Sericultural Department for the year 1943-44.

READ—

Report on the working of the Sericultural Department during the year 1943-44 from the Special Officer received with his letter No. E. 823, dated 29th May 1945.

ORDER No. D. 261-330—SERI. 226-44-3, DATED 10TH JULY 1945.

Recorded.

2. *Market conditions of the Silk Industry.*—The price of standard quality cocoons, yielding a renditta of 18 to 1, was fixed at Re. 0-14-6 per lb. during June 1943. This price was revised from time to time on the basis of the cost of living index and it was raised to Rs. 1-1-0 during June 1944. Sixty-nine lakhs of lbs. of cocoons were purchased and sold in the cocoon markets of the State during the year. In addition to the 41 cocoon markets which functioned during the previous year, ten more markets were started during the year under report.

3. *Mulberry cultivation.*—The area under mulberry in the State rose to nearly 75,000 acres during the year.

The starting of a fully equipped sericultural farm and grainage at Dodballapur was sanctioned in March 1944.

4. *Research experiments and propaganda.*—The Harijan Sericultural Colonies at Chikkamannugudde, Channapatna Taluk, Alakere and Bilidevalaya, Kunigal Taluk, supplied good Mysore race seed cocoons.

Silk worm eggs of the univoltine races were reared, yielding good results.

A scheme for the expansion of Sericultural Industry in Honnali Taluk was sanctioned in October 1943.

A building for the silk conditioning and Testing House at Channapatna is under construction and part of the machinery has been received. Pending completion of the building, arrangements have been made for testing and grading of silk at the Silk Farm at Channapatna.

5. *Special features during the year.*—The scheme of filature expansion which was undertaken at the instance of the Government of India is making satisfactory progress.

In order to make the Cocoon Control Order of 1943 more effective, certain amendments were made in April 1944.

Measures to prevent unauthorised dealings in cocoons and silk were taken.

A new method of fixing renditta, which has been in vogue in all the cocoon markets, is being tried.

The Mysore Silk Control Order of 1943 was suitably amended in order to deal effectively with cases of unauthorised possession of silk.

A system of licensing weaving and throwing establishments was also introduced to check unauthorised possession of silk.

The surplus realised from the sale of silk in auctions under the provisions of the Silk Control Order is distributed equally among the rearers, reelers and a portion of it is also credited to the Silk Development Fund which is intended to be utilised for the future development of the industry in the State.

A separate police organisation for the prevention of black-market activity and of the smuggling of cocoons and silk under the Cocoon and Silk Control Orders, 1943, was sanctioned.

J. B. MALLARADHYA, *Addl. Secy.*

Printed by the Superintendent at the Government Press, Bangalore.